

18th Dec. 1928.

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L.T.F. My dear Johnson,

Many thanks for your letter Ra/413/1/8 of the 12th instant.

Of course it would be a very great thing for our Erivan scheme if the League of Red Cross Societies could help us with the feeding of the refugees during the first time of their settlement. It is, however, to be understood that the Armenian Government have offered to take our money as a loan and to settle the refugees themselves in cooperation with us, and so far it would not really be our duty to feed the refugees during the first time, but it is obvious that if the League of Red Cross Societies would help to feed them it would make the whole arrangement much easier, and we could certainly come to some agreement with the Armenian Government as to how it could be best arranged. I cannot, however, give you a satisfactory answer to your questions, and I therefore send your letter on to Captain Quisling asking him to answer you directly as far as it may be possible to him. What I could say at present would be:

- 1) I suppose that during the next two years we could expect to settle 5000 refugees perhaps.
- 2) Of this I cannot say anything at present.
- 3) I suppose for one year or 1 1/2 year after they have been transferred to Armenia, unless they can be employed in the irrigation work.
- 4) A very modest sum would be required, but I cannot yet say exactly how much.
- 5) I quite agree that the expenditure should be an advance if possible, but that might perhaps in this case complicate matters, as the refugees have to pay back their advances to the Government and not to us, as the Government are taking the loan and are guaranteeing it, and we are not lending directly to the refugees, but some arrangement might perhaps be found.

I regret that I cannot answer more definitely at present, but hope that Captain Quisling may be able to give you better information.

Yours sincerely,

Fridtjof Nansen.